the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether State Governments are not properly implementing the Consumer Protection Act;

(c) whether complaints have been received in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) This Ministry complies such a information on quarterly basis. Based on the information available with Central Government, a statement has been prepared and is annexed. [*See* Appendix 174 Annexure No. 2]

(b) At present, 31 State Commissions and 457 District Fora are functioning in the States/UTs. In addition, one State Commission and two Divisional Fora are functioning in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. All the State Governments and UT Administrations have been advised to monitor regularly pending cases in consumer courts.

(c) to (d) Some of the State Government had requested to give financial assistance to strengthen the infrastructure of there consumer courts. The Government has agreed to release financial assistance of Rs. 61 crore in four instalments to the State Governments to strengthen the infrastructure of these courts.

M.Ps' Local Area Development Scheme in Bihar

35. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been difference of opinion amongst the M.Ps.' and the District Collectors in Bihar about the schemes in the MPs' Local Area Development Scheme;

(b) if so, what are the details of such districts and the nature of schemes; and

(c) what is being done to find out solution to these problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) Only one case of difference of opinion between the Member of Parliament Smt. Rita Verma, MP, Dhanbad and the District Development Commissioner came to the notice of the Department of Programme Implementation from Bihar.

(b) and (c) The matter is under consideration of the Privileges Committee of Parliament.

UNICEF'S Report about Child Labour in India

36. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the Progress of the Nations Report, 1995 prepared by the UNICEF, in India between 5% to 30% of the children under the age of 16 are engaged in child labour; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to rehabilitate them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) UNICEF in their progress of the Nations Report, 1995 have observed that between 5% and 30% of children under the age of 16 are estimated to fall under the definition of child labour.

According to 1981 Census, 4.26% of children in the country are working children.

(b) National Child Labour Policy, 1987 has three action plans to rehabilitate child labour i.e. (i) a legislative action plan; (ii) focussing of general development programmes for benefiting children wherever possible; and (iii) project-based

actions plan in areas of high concentration of child labour engaged in wage/quasi-wage employment.

At present, 12 National Child Labour Projects are under implementation in 8 States covering approximately 16,000 children. A major activity undertaken under the National child Labour Projects is establishment of special schools to provide basic needs like non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition etc., to the children withdrawn from employment. Volunatry agencies are being financially assisted to the extent of 75% for taking up welfare projects for working children under the Grants in-Aid Scheme.

In addition to the above, the National Authority for Elimination of Child Labour has also identified 100 districts which have the highest incidence of child Labour in the country. It has been decided that projects to eliminate child labour in hazardous occupations will be started as per the National Child Labour Project Scheme in these districts. A workshop of these 100 District Collectors is scheduled to take place in New Delhi on 13-14 September, 1995. The concerned Collectors have been requested to prepare project proposals in their respective districts based on the National Child Labour Project Scheme. An allocation of Rs. 34.4 crores has been made for the current year to undertake projects for children withdrawn from work.

Buying of Tabacco Strocks by Russian Team

37. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Russian team visited India to buy tobacco stocks from Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantity of tobacco that is to be bought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No official delegation from Russia has visited India during the current year for purchase of tobacco.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the bilateral agreement signed between the Govenrment of India and Russia on 23rd December, 1994, the Russian side is to take all necessary measures and render assistacne to Russian business entities and organisations for annual purchase of 20,000 MTs of tobacco from India during the calendar years 1995 to 1997.

Membership of the All India Newspaper Employees Federation (AINEF)

38. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Newspaper Employees Federation (AINEF) has demanded verification of Memebrship of the National Organisations of Newspspers employees—National Federation of Newspaper Employees (NFNE) and the AINEF in order to setting the question of representation on the Non-Journalists Wage Board;

(b) whether it is a fact that the AINEF has demanded replacement of the NFNE representative on the Non-Journalists Wage Board; and

(c) whether the Labour Ministry has taken any decision on the demands of the AINEF; if not, by when Government decision is likely to be expected;

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government has initiated steps to amend the Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions